

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that claims 1 - 15 be reconsidered for allowance in view of this Amendment and these Remarks.

Page 9 and the "Assignment" thereon is cancelled.

The Specification has been amended in paragraph [016] to recite that "each attaching member 50 includes a substantially four-sided body 52 which is bisected by a fore-and-aft extending vertical central plane, and a first hook 54 projecting upwardly from a first side 56 of the body 52". Paragraph [016] is also amended to recite that "a second hook 60 projects rearwardly from a second side 62 of the body 52". Paragraph [016] is also amended to recite that "both hooks 54 and 62 project parallel to the central plane of the body 52". No new matter is introduced by this amendment because this is supported by Figs. 1 - 4.

Claims 1 - 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Koch in view of Landry. Accordingly, claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended and new claim 15 has been added to more accurately define the present invention.

Amended claim 1 recites "an attaching member mountable in each side member, each attaching member comprising a body, a first hook projecting upwardly from the body, and a second hook projecting rearwardly from the body". Similar to claim 1, amended claim 10 recites "each dual hook member comprising a body, a first hook projecting upwardly from the body, and a second hook projecting rearwardly from the body". In contrast, Landry shows a dual hitch ball support 14 with arms 22 and 24 both of which extend generally horizontally. Modifying the hooks 36 of Koch as taught by the dual hitch ball support of Landry would presumably result in a dual hook member wherein both hooks project generally horizontally. There would not be upwardly and rearwardly projecting hooks as recited in amended claims 1 and 10. Thus, the combination of Landry with Koch does not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claims 1 or 10.

Claims 2 - 9 should be allowed because they depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 1.

With respect to claim 11, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 11 recites "each dual hook member comprising a body with first and second hooks projecting from the body, the body defining a central plane which is positioned between the first and second hooks, each of the hooks forming a coupling recess, each recess defining a recess opening axis, each said axis

intersecting with said central plane and the other axis". This is supported by Fig. 5 which shows dual hook member 50 with a body 52 with first and second hooks 54, 60 projecting from the body 52. The body 52 defines a central plane C which is positioned between the first and second hooks. Each of the hooks 54, 60 forming a coupling recess 70, 72. Each recess 70, 72 defining a recess opening axis A, B. Each axis A, B intersecting with the central plane C and the other axis. No structure even remotely similar is shown in either Landry or Koch. Thus, claim 11 should be allowed and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 should be allowed because it depends from allowable claim 11.

Amended claim 13 recites "a pair of dual hook members mountable on the frame, each dual hook member comprising a body bisected by vertical fore-and-aft extending central plane and first and second hooks projecting from opposite ends of the body, and the first and second hooks projecting parallel to said central plane". This is supported by Figs. 3 and 4. No structure even remotely similar is shown in either Landry or Koch. Thus, amended claim 13 should be allowed and such allowance is respectfully requested.

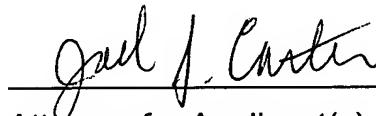
Claim 14 should be allowed because it depends from allowable amended claim 13.

New claim 15 has been added. New claim 15 recites "a frame for mounting to the work vehicle, the frame having a cross member and left and right side members depending from opposite ends of the cross member, each side member having inner and outer side walls forming a slot therebetween". New claim 15 also recites "the attaching member being mountable in a first orientation wherein the first hook is in an operative position and the second hook is received by said slot, and being mountable in a second orientation wherein the second hook is in an operative position and the first hook is received by the slot". In contrast, in Koch there is no slot in a hitch frame side member. In the combination of Landry and Koch, there cannot be any hook received by a slot. Thus, new claim 15 should be allowed, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,



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